ART. 4.—MAURY ON SOUTH AMERICA AND AMAZONIA.

1. *The Memorial of* M. F. MAURY, a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, to the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress. Washington: 1852.
2. *The Amazon and the Atlantic slopes of South America;* a series of letters, published in the National Intelligencer and Union newspapers, under the signature of "Inca." By M. F. MAURY, L.L.D., Lieutenant U. S. Navy. Washington: Published by Frank. Taylor. 1853.
3. *Memoir on the Physical and Political Geography of New Granada.* By General T. C. MOSQUERA. Translated from the Spanish by THEODORE DWIGHT. Published by T. Dwight. New-York: 1853.
4. *DeBow's Review,* for 1853.
5. *Buenos Ayres and the Provinces of the Rio de la Plata;* from their discovery and conquest by the Spaniards to the establishment of their political independence; with some account of their present state, debt, etc.; an appendix of historical and statistical documents, and a description of the geology and fossil monsters of the Pampas. By Sir WOODBINE PARISH, K.C.H., F.R.S., G.S., Vice-President of the Royal Geographical Society of London, and many years Chargé d'Affaires of H.B.M. at Buenos Ayres. Second edition, enlarged, with new map and illustrations. London: John Murray. 1852.
6. *Para, or Scenes and Adventures on the Banks of the Amazon.* By JOHN ESAIAS WARREN. New-York: G. P. Putnam. 1851.
7. *Prescott's Conquest of Peru.* New-York.
8. *Travels in Brazil in the years* 1815, 1816, 1817. By PRINCE MAXIMILIAN, of Wied-Nenwied. Illustrated with plates. Part 1st. London: 1820.
9. *Industrial Resources of the Southern and Western States, &c.,* with an Appendix. Three volumes. By J. D. B. DEBOW, Professor, &c. 1852.

THE presentation of a memorial to Congress, by an individual, the objects of which are no ways selfish—which

entreats nothing for the memorialist, and the results of which can yield him nothing:—which, in fact, contemplates the good of the country only, and involves not a single object of the petitioner;—is an event at once highly curious and creditable. The character of petitions to Congress, ordinarily, is of a very different complexion; and we do not know, indeed, but that Lieut. Maury may incur the peril of being very much laughed at for the extreme and irrational character of his simplicity. We have become so knowing a people, that a real exhibition of patriotism implies something like natural verdancy; and whatever degree of respect the possessor may command, in behalf of his virtue, will be likely to be too moderate to neutralize the contempt which is inspired by his ignorance. Were the patriotism spurious, on the face of it, we should be better prepared to acknowledge the professor's right to our consideration. It would only show that he knew and was prepared to play the game like other people. But, surely, there is something very absurd, in such a world as ours, in honestly devoting oneself to the common cause, without first seeing that proper provision is made for the patriot! Lieut. Maury has really perilled his petition by his disinterestedness. Had he asked for something for himself, he would have been better prepared to share the spoils with his neighbour, and would not be regarded, in the atrocious attitude of a person, ambitious of more virtue than falls to the common share. He exhibits himself to us in the usual light of the student, who thinks quite too much of his subject, and the labour in his thought, to be able to devote any of his thought selfishly; but, verily, students are as little needed, in the political world, seemingly, as patriots, and were our petitioner less profound and thoughtful, and less patriotic, he would in all probability be so much nigher to the attainment of his object. But, without looking farther to his chances of getting possession of the ear of Congress, let us see what are the arguments in respect to the subject matter of his petition.

The agricultural and mineral capabilities of large portions of the Atlantic slopes of South America, and the consequent commercial benefits necessarily to accrue from the proper

development of them, aided by liberal terms of national intercourse, are not novelties of the present day. They have been long known, and by the intelligent and far seeing, long appreciated. Sebastian Cabot* in 1627–'28, explored the rivers Parana and Paraguay, and from the Indians received the first specimens of gold and silver from Peru: soon after, Cabeza de Vaca marched across Brazil,—and Yrala, the true conqueror of that region, penetrated to the "confines of Peru." These expeditions, followed by others, exhibited a view of much of the country, watered by the affluents of the great Rio de la Plata. The party of Gonzalez Pizarro, in 1540,† from Tinto, passed through the "Land of Cinnamon," to the waters of the Amazon; and the earliest navigation, by civilized man, of that monarch of streams—that of Francisco de Orellana, during the same year, floating even to the mouth, and sailing thence to Spain, exposed to European knowledge, a benign climate, a fertile soil, and a varied and magnificent natural production, which were not equalled by any known part of the globe. Much was‡ hidden by the jealous rulers of the mother country. Yet enough was divulged to awaken the interest of mankind.

British sagacity, stimulated at that early day by mercantile cupidity, perceived the splendid prize. Lethargic in assisting, or encouraging generously the great navigators of that era, she still determined to reap some fruit from their labours, which her indolence or parsimony had diverted to the glory and the advantage of Spain. And, from the romantic expeditions of Sir Walter Raleigh, at the close of the sixteenth, and the beginning of the seventeenth centu-

* For these several facts regarding the La Plata country, see a valuable and interesting volume, by Sir Woodbine Parish. London: 1852. Three first chapters.

† Prescott's Conquest of Peru, vol. 2d, chapter fourth. In a note to p. 166, he says a more remarkable expedition was performed down the Amazon by a woman—Madame Godin—in 1789. Her boat was wrecked. Her party one by one perished in the march. She was alone, but the Indians succored, and carried her to a French settlement. Her hardships and terrors turned her hair white, although a young woman. But she lived to meet her husband.

Orellana called the river the Amazon, because he was opposed in his descent by women armed with bow and arrow. Condamine said there was reason to believe in the existence of a community of armed women on the Amazon.

‡ See Parish's book.

ries, no effort has been spared to secure, at least, commercial profits, from the development of the wonderful resources of South-America. In alluding to this subject, one of her writers said,* more than forty years ago, "witness the importance, which, throughout the history of our commerce, we find attached to the contraband trade with the Spanish Main,—the contract on which so much stress was laid in the treaty of Utrecht * * * the greater importance attached to the possession of the Falkland Islands, and the weight ascribed to Trinidad, in the treaty of Amiens." Let us urge the more recent transactions at Buenos Ayres, in 1806–'7, under Sir Howe Popham, and Generals Beresford and Whitelocke, in which England was ingloriously repulsed. To which, in illustration, may be added the secret or open encouragement given to the aspirations of Miranda,† sometimes bordering upon, if not committing, an infraction of treaty stipulations with Spain;—the ardent desire for the emancipation of the Spanish colonies, not from any regard for the enjoyment by man, of his birthright of liberty, but to induce the promotion of her own gain, by destroying the restrictive commercial policy of the Spanish Court:—and, finally, her treaty with the Argentine Confederation in 1825, and her uniform conduct to the colonies since the establishment of their independence. These facts, running through centuries of time, having one unvaried object, consistently and perseveringly pursued, manifest very clearly both the value of the resources of South America, and the interest which England has cherished, and still cherishes, in her affairs. France has repeatedly shown similar interest, which need not be traced. Comparatively little has been done, however, for that great country. The outskirts have been settled, and some inland points, on rivers and amid the mineral hills, have been occupied; the ground, as it were, has been

* Edinburgh Review, for 1809. It may be said, that the "contract" in the treaty of Utrecht, was to furnish the colonies with *African slaves!* It was permitted to send 1200 a year, and get pay in produce. Smuggling was introduced on an extensive scale. Resistance was made to the inspection of ships. The contract began in 1715—but England behaved so outrageously, that Spain broke it entirely in 1739. See *Parish.*

† Edinburgh Review, 1809.

scratched for diamonds, and for the precious metals: but agriculture is neglected, and the garden spot of the earth is little better than a wilderness. The interior forests have rarely echoed to the sound of the pioneer's axe. The rich soil, accumulating for countless ages, and overspread by a genial alternation of sunshine and of shower, remains in its primeval virginity. The delightful climate, maturing in perfection the fruits, and the usual growth of the tropics, dispenses its bounties to the inert Spaniard or Portuguese—to the careless Indian, and to the lazy negro. The rivers, of capacity to float the commerce of the world, roll their ceaseless tides for thousands and thousands of miles, through solitudes, seldom broken by the hum of busy man. The rude raft, the clumsy barque, the canoe of the casual fisherman or hunter, until very* recently, were the only craft that floated upon those majestic streams. Three hundred years possession by the *pseudo* civilized man, have yet afforded scarce a mark of solid progress! The varied arts—the pressing industrial energies—the commercial activity of present civilization, which, "like the quality of mercy, bless him that gives and him that takes," have been practically unknown. Indeed the population of that beautiful and most valuable section of the globe, have proved themselves utterly destitute of the genuine spirit of a conquering or conserving race.

Almost from the period of the discovery† of America, the Spaniards and Portuguese have been degenerating as peoples, and declining in the scale of nations. Transplanted to the new world, which the right of discovery consigned to them in part, and owners of many of its fairest portions, they observed the most contracted and monopolizing views of international intercourse, and disregarded the plainest precepts of political economy. They were priest-ridden out of all heroic sentiment—their earlier chivalry, noted over

* A steamboat has been on the Amazon once, perhaps, within the year. The first one for La Plata, &c., is on the way there now.

† Without going farther, we refer to Edward Everett's lecture in New-York, on the 1st June, 1853. It is an interesting and beautiful account of the discovery and settlement of America.

Europe, was extinguished. They were crushed by despotic institutions, and in the end, their *morale* was destroyed. Their action was confined almost entirely to individual enterprize, and this enterprize, not like that of the Anglo Saxon race, directed to the acquisition of land, and the organization of communities under wise regulations, but to the single aim of amassing* money. Their purposes were sordid, and the motive power was less frequently one of honest and consistent industry, than a fixed system of plunder. The victims of it were not always the helpless aborigines,† for the feebler of their own country were often rifled without remorse. When favourable circumstances permitted these descendants of the proud Castilian to shake off the tyranny of the mother country, they attempted a sort of bastard imitation of the example of the more vigorous North Americans. But the freqûent revolutions, and the relapses into anarchy, demonstrate that they cannot harmonize‡ upon any scheme of stable government. Therefore, they appear to be altogether unadapted to the laborious and skillful processes, of converting a great country from a state of passive, although generous nature, into one which industry and art would regenerate and embellish, which the wings of a reciprocal commerce would enrich and enlighten, and which free principles of government, and their just observance and application, would elevate and ennoble.

Great Britain, formerly, was too constantly engaged in war—expensive always, and sometimes dangerous, to effect much single handed, toward ameliorating the condition of South America, by trying to alter the exclusive notions of her possessors. Since the independence of the colonies, her efforts have been unremitting, and some success has been the result. France was similarly engrossed, and in the intervals of conflict, she was too inveterate a rival of Eng-

* Sir W. Parish's book.

† Prescott's Peru, 2d vol., 247-'8—"The dominant passion of the Spaniard was the lust of gold." See paper of Las Casas, and his testimony before the council of Valladolid. See Sir W. Parish for the robberies of one another.

‡ Prescott, vol. 2d, p. 205—"Sad it is, but not strange, that the length of time passed under a bad government, has not qualified him for devising a good one."

land, to be called in co-operation, and alone she was equally impotent. The United States recently sprung into independent existence, were perhaps very justly overlooked. They had been maturing the bone and muscle of vigorous infancy, and were not offended at the neglect. But they have now advanced with unexampled rapidity to a position among the first powers. Their equality in the great race of national grandeur, arising from progress in the increase of territory, wealth, population; in the industrial and refining arts; in extent of commercial operations; in military and moral strength; in a word, in civilization, their equality is conceded. These three are the controlling countries of the world. For the peaceful progress of mankind, a union of their councils, and a combination of effort, must inevitably lead to the happiest ends. Their joint influence will subdue the characteristic obstinacy of the Portuguese and Spaniard, or conciliate their liberality, when redounding to the pecuniary advantage and political importance of those peoples, or, by diplomatic correspondence, enlighten their ignorance of the rules of international comity. Something has already been accemplished. The lethargy of three centuries is at length broken. The various republics of South-America are awakening from stupefaction to the controlling ideas and the pressing necessities of the present age. The treaty with Paraguay, so long benighted under a real autocracy, is an auspicious event. The action of Peru and Bolivia, and other States, affords high promise for the future. Brazil is yet in the vapour of stullification, but the mist must be dispelled by the broad rays of intelligence. She cannot resist them. When accomplished, and the effects of free settlement and free commerce become manifest, a new era will dawn upon the world. An extraordinary impulse will be given to the physical, the social, and the moral advancement of the human species, when South America assumes the position to which she seems destined.

The subject of South America and her resources, always interesting, has been presented to the public of recent years, in several valuable books—comprising sketches of the country, adventures among its rivers and its bound-

less woods, travels and histories. The credit of reviving, in the United States, the question of the agricultural and commercial benefits to be derived, from developing the natural advantages of the slopes of that country, is eminently due to Lieut. Maury of the Navy. He has been occupied for some time in the government observatory at Washington, where his duty required a close study of the currents of the ocean, and of the winds which traverse it. In following these along the Atlantic, and combining with them and their action the geographical configuration of the semi-continent of South America, and the vast extent of country lying between the Andes and the coast, in the latitude of the tropics, and bounteously watered by numberless navigable water courses, he soon perceived what a glorious section of the world that must inevitably become. His attention was fully attracted to an investigation of the matter. The more he acquired, and the more he reflected, the more thoroughly was his enthusiasm enkindled. His thoughts forced him into utterance. He wrote newspaper essays on Amazonia, memorialized Congress, and, finally, issues quite recently a pamphlet, giving a summary description not only of the Amazon country, but likewise of that drained by the waters of La Plata. Mr. Hopkins has done equally well, and more minutely from personal knowledge, by the republic of Paraguay. The reports of our naval officers, sent to make* an exploration, will ere long be published and our acquaintance with that neglected region will be more complete. Yet Mr. Maury has already presented ample *data* for the action of Congress and the Executive. He has done more. He has furnished to our sagacious and enterprising merchants and manufacturers, hints for profitable adventure, which they will scarcely leave unimproved.

Agriculture, the basis of civilized pursuits, and the noblest of all human avocations, it is very true is of slow growth.

* These officers are Lieuts. Herndon and Gibbon of the Navy. They were not *sent* exactly, but on the refusal of Brazil to permit an exploration of the Amazon, were ordered from the Pacific where they were, to return home by that river, and note all that was of value on the route. Lieut. Herndon returned and reported. Congress (Senate rather,) directed its publication. It has not reached us. Lieut. Gibbon is still on the way. See Maury's allusions to them.

It does not burst into lusty life in a single day, nor can it accumulate large surpluses of production, under a series of years. Commerce, her handmaid, dependent on these surpluses for nutriment, is necessarily less rapid in advancement. But they are reciprocally stimulative. The one urges to increased industry, to varied application of labour, to skillful adaptation of known arts, in order to induce the largest possible yield from mother earth. The other, when vigorously and successfully prosecuted, excites eager competition;—demands speedy and secure transportation of its fruits;—awakens the genius, which detected the force of steam, and applied the principle to ocean navigation;—applied it again to the iron steed that annihilates distance between inland points, and created the electric telegraph, which outspeeds time itself!

Commerce has other, and, perhaps, not less important influences. While it may be justly argued, that mercantile Phenicia and Carthage in ancient times, and Venice, Genoa and Portugal in modern, were less refined, the former than Greece and Rome, the latter than France and England, yet it is incontestible that commerce is not only the means and the vehicle of enriching its patrons by the interchange of national products, but likewise of communicating knowledge between nations. Her own country may be, and often is, delivered to sordid acquisition, in disregard of the arts which polish, the military ambition which gives dignity and force of character, and the moral principle which inspires nobility of sentiment and elevation of conception, but she wafts from region to region the discoveries, the inventions, the new ideas and principles of the age. She awakens thought, she arouses latent energies, she breaks the somnolency of remote and solitary people, she instils great principles of social and political freedom, she finally sows all the necessary seed, and imparts all the requisite information for the regeneration of a nation! Her mission is a glorious one, whether reaction tends or not, to the benefaction of her own country. These, two, give birth to the great third power in the prosperity of a people—manufactures. It is subordinate to the others, but is equally necessary in the economy of mankind, and it

exerts a wholesome influence on the prosecution of the other pursuits. All are yet, in great measure, wanting to South America. The elements of the power of each, are only beginning to dawn upon the drowsy intellects of that people, buried for ages in darkness. But this beginning is encouraging. It must be followed up with spirit, and the three enlightened nations of the earth are those to whom Providence seems to have entrusted the duty.

With these preliminary remarks, the principal design of this paper will be approached. The purpose is rather to echo the judicious observations of other writers, already published, on the advantages of the settlement and the energetic cultivation of the Atlantic slopes of South America, than to pretend to offer original views. In the main, a hearty concurrence is yielded to what Maury, Hopkins and others, have advanced; and their conclusions are commended to the earnest attention of the reader. When any difference of view arises, it will be discussed with fairness, and our reasons, whether sound or not, in the judgment of others, will be presented frankly, and without reserve or distortion.

South America is situated between the deg. of 12 north, and 54 south latitude; and between about 43 east, and 5 deg. west longitude from Washington. All notice of the romantic country of the Incas, a strip of land lying west of the Andes, fifty or sixty miles wide, and running nearly the length of the semi-continent, will be omitted. Likewise, the portion south of the mouth La Plata, (latitude 36 deg. south,) and the northern part, not drained by the waters of the Orinoco. The region to which our inquiry will be confined, includes, therefore, some 46 deg. of latitude, and about 35 of longitude.

The area drained by the waters of the two great rivers, the Amazon and La Plata, is, in square miles, about three millions, including the Orinoco country, which is connected with Amazonia by the Rio Negro, and therefore may, we might say *must*, in time, become tributary to it. This area constitutes the major portion of that territory, which makes South America the richest division of the globe.

La Plata proper is only some two hundred miles long, and

in width varying from* sixty to one hundred and fifty miles. Its principal feeders are, the Uruguay, bounding Brazil on the S. W., and giving name to the State lying between it and the coast; the Banda Oriental del Uruguay: the Parana, rising in Brazil, and skirting the western limits of that empire in its course: the Paraguay, springing from sources† in Matto Grosso, within a very few miles of the head streams of the Madeira, which river flows to the Amazon and the Pilcomayo, which rises near Chuquisaca, "Silver City," and not far from Potosi, and courses a thousand miles south eastward, to the Paraguay.

The Buenos Ayres provinces and Uruguay, are the prairie region. There are vast *pampas* extending toward Chili—the natural and ever-green‡ pastures—covered with immense droves of horses and herds of cattle, and susceptible to almost any extent, of rearing these animals, and also the several varieties of sheep. Hundreds of thousands of hides are exported annually. With attention, what a supply of wool might be furnished to the looms of England and America.

Some fifteen hundred miles from the sea, lies the republic of Paraguay, between the parallels of 22 and 28 deg. south latitude. Hopkins describes it as a second Eden. Its surface is diversified with woodlands, and beautiful prairies, and ample water courses. Nearly all the fruits of the tropics grow there in perfection. Its products are various and valuable. Among its sixty varieties of useful and ornamental woods, are the "*seibo* tree," spongy and easily cut like cork when green, but when dry, so hard that steel will scarcely

* Sir W. Parish, 1st chapter. Cabot probably gave this name the "River of Silver" to the Parana, because some twelve hundred miles from the ocean he obtained silver from the Indians. They, however, procured it in Peru.

† The distance is said to be only two and a half miles. Maury, p. 29. A canal could be readily dug to connect them.

‡ Sir W. Parish says that every thing is done on horseback at Buenos Ayres. *Fish are seined* from the saddle! Beggars, licensed by the police, ask for alms on horseback. The horses are so numerous, and so cheaply kept, that no value is attached to them. The *pampas* resemble the prairies of Texas, but in a more humid climate, are of ranker and richer verdure. A Texan calls the prairie his *livery stable*, and a branching live oak his *hotel*.

impress it:—the snake-tree, affording an infallible cure for snake-bites:—the milk-tree-vegetable cow, supplying a liquid not so rich as milk, but a good substitute:—and the drunken (*drunkards?*) tree, a "vegetable distillery." The "Maine liquor law" could never reach the tipplers there, where nature spontaneously furnishes the alcoholic stimulant in profuse abundance. The question too would arise, if Providence did not emphatically decree the use of "spirits," since the very trees of the forest distill it perennially to all comers, without money and without price! There are also gums and drugs* of the rarest virtues and of the most exquisite perfume. A resin is yielded at the roots of another tree, which is a natural pitch, in readiness to fill the seams of vessels; and for these the forests supply abundant material. Additionally, there are many medicines and dye-stuffs produced in Paraguay: rhubarb, jalap, sarsaparilla, bezonia indica, holywood, dragon's blood, copaiva, nux vomica, liquorice and ginger; wild cotton, gutta percha, India rubber, cochineal, several indigos, vermillion, saffron, golden rod, with other plants producing all the tints of dark red, black and green.—(Hopkins.) The climate is a blending of Italy and California, with a healthful and pleasant alternation of refreshing rains and unclouded skies.

Passing farther, to Villa Maria, in Matto Grosso, a Brazilian province, latitude 16 deg. south, you approach the "ipecacuanha region." It is an immense plantation, within one field of three thousand square miles! "The crop is perennial, and may be gathered the year round." Fifteen pounds may be collected by a single hand per day—it is worth one dollar per pound at Rio Janeiro—and labourers cost only three† or four dollars a month! From 1830 to 1837, eight hundred thousand pounds were carried to Rio; but the transportation is tedious and expensive;—mules are the carriers, and one year is consumed in a single trip of the caravan!

To the north east, and not very far, is Cuyaba, in the midst

* Maury, quoting Hopkins—Hopkins alludes to a tree, the Lapacho, timbers from which had been supporting the roofs of houses in Buenos Ayres for more than two hundred years, and gave no signs of decay.

† Maury's pamphlet.

of gold and precious stones. It is the capital of Matto Grosso. Its commerce, by caravans, consists in hides, deer and jaguar skins, gold dust, diamonds, &c. The freight to Rio is fifteen dollars per hundred pounds! What a change would water communication and steamers produce! And adjacant to navigable streams, what facilities are afforded to employ them! Enterprise alone is wanting.

Still higher up the Cuyaba river, an affluent of the Paraguay, you reach in latitude 11 or 12, Diamantino, the "town of diamonds." These jewels are found scattered in the beds of streams and through the soil. They are found often in the crops of fowls. Eighty millions of dollars worth have already been derived from that region, and its untold riches are scarcely yet discovered! Near this village, the waters of the Amazon and La Plata, were seen flowing from the same farm of Estivado. Diamantino trades with Para, at the mouth of the Amazon. The embarkation point is ten leagues distant, on the Tapajos or the Arinas, flowing into the former. The voyage requires eight months! The merchandize brought up pays an average of eight hundred and fifty per cent. on the cost at Para, and probably nine hundred and fifty per ct. on the prices of N. York or Charleston! Iron is worth at Diamantino five hundred and fifty dollars a ton!* Salt eighteen cents a pound, and flour forty dollars a barrel. These people are immersed in the very blackness of cimmerian night. The energy of a few thousand Anglo-Normans would soon awaken them to the vivid glare of civilized sunlight.

To the westward lies the extensive Republic of Bolivia, one of the finest tropical climates in the world, and including in its productions those of nearly all the habitable portions of the earth. Every variety of clime and soil, and every growth of other regions, may be found there, from the lichens of the polar zone, through the grains of the temperate, to the orange and the pine-apple of the tropics. It is also a great mineral country. It contains Potosi, whence sixteen hundred millions of dollars of silver† have been extracted, and

* Maury's pamphlet. † Ibid.

ten thousand other mines there and in Peru, rich and practicable, remain neglected and abandoned!' What a stimulus does not this fact furnish to the enterprising and the daring? And Bolivia too is liberal in her policy. Her only port on the Pacific, Cobija, is an open roadstead, and her products, borne over the mountains to that point, and shipped around Cape Horn, yield but small returns for labour. Half her territory lying in the Amazon Valley, a portion in La Plata, ordinary sagacity shows that her outlet to market is naturally through those rivers, and she offers every encouragement to their navigation to her own doors. By a decree of the 27th January, 1853, she declares, as the "owner of the Pilcomayo; of the tributaries* and the greater part of the Madeira; of the left shores of the Irenes; of the western bank of the Paraguay; of the greater part of the Bermejo, she has the right to navigate these rivers to the sea," and no power shall "arrogate exclusive sovereignty over the Amazon and La Plata." She makes the navigation "free to all the nations of the globe," and on several streams, establishes *nineteen* free ports. She offers to donote from "one league to twelve leagues square," of her land, "to the individuals or companies, who, sailing from the Atlantic, shall arrive at any one of the points, declared to be free ports of entry, and may wish to found near them agricultural and industrial establishments." She guarantees "ten thousand dollars to the first steamer, which, through La Plata or Amazon, may arrive at either of the free ports." And she declares "free the river exportation of the products of the soil and the national industry." From Bolivia is derived the bark from which quinine is manufactured. Two millions of dollars worth was gathered there in 1852, and the demand over the world is daily increasing. It is now transported six hundred miles, on the backs of mules, over the Andes to the Pacific, and thence conveyed to a market around the Cape. It is the country too of the "Sacred Llama,"† of the Vicuna and

* The decree from the *Epoca*, published at La Paz, Bolivia, copied in the New-York Herald.

† The Llama, a variety of sheep, belonged to the Incas and was held to be sacred. The Spaniards, under Pizarro and his followers, made great havoc among them. At present, however, they are again increasing and flourishing.

the Alpaca. The population numbers about a million and a half.

Peru is situated to the north-west of Bolivia. Two-thirds of its territory lie on the waters of the Amazon. The great quicksilver mine, Huancavelica, is in Peru. There are other mines of both silver and mercury. The climate is most healthful. People live there to a good old age. The difficulties of transporting produce to market are equal to those of Bolivia—first a passage over the mountains to the Pacific and thence around the Cape. Peru is rich in her islands of guano, and a writer says that five of the eight millions of dollars of her revenue are derived from this source. The curious coca plant is indigenous there. It is a great stimulant, whose leaves are dried, and mixed with lime, and when eat, enables the Indians to travel on foot, fifty miles a day, without fatigue. From 1785 to 1789, (says Castlenau,) three and a half millions of pounds were used in the province of Lima alone. The total consumption in Peru, for the same period, was worth two and a half millions of dollars. The coca may be used with benefit under certain circumstances, and will prove a valuable article of commerce. In excess, however, like the opium in China, if not so fatally hurtful, at least it will be deleterious to the system. Like Bolivia, Peru is anxious to employ her water communication to the Atlantic. She made a treaty with Brazil for the formation of two lines of steamers. The first to run from Para (near the mouth of the Amazon,) to the mouth of the Rio Negro—both entirely within Brazil—to which eighty thousand dollars a year was to be given, and the monopoly of navigation for thirty years. The second, from Barra (mouth of the Negro,) to the outlet of the Ucayale in Equador,* and in longitude four and a half deg. east of Washington, to which twenty thousand dollars were to be paid per annum. Both to be managed, &c., by a company, whose capital shall be six hundred thousand dollars. Peru was greatly overreached in the adjustment of the terms, and Brazil acted with

* The Ucayale debouches in Equador. Maury says Peru. The river is *almost* entirely in the latter Republic. It is a long and important river.

a cunning, but short sighted policy, in her aim to exclude all nations from the Amazon and its tributaries. Our representative at Peru, Mr. Clay, had a few months earlier negotiated a treaty, which engages Peru not to grant any "favour, privilege, or immunity whatever, in matters of commerce and navigation, to other nations, which shall not be also immediately extended to the citizens" of the United States, &c. Besides, the right is conceded to us to go with our vessels to "all the *coasts*, *ports* and *places* of Peru, wherever foreign commerce is permitted, and reside in all parts of the territory," &c. Brazil has, therefore, really acquired little but Peruvian money, by her selfish and contracted stipulations. The exposure in Peru of the brazen swindle, will excite an indignation, which will do the cause of free navigation of the Amazon *not the least harm.*

On the 5th of April, Peru* issued a decree similar to that of Bolivia, by which her portion of the waters of the Amazon were thrown open to all nations. How it may conflict with the treaty with Brazil we need not pause to consider. She likewise establishes the freedom of two ports, at which no duties shall be collected. And of equal importance, emigrants from all countries are invited to her shores, who, landing on the Pacific, will be transported, at the public expense, over the Andes into the Amazon Valley. Land, farming instruments and seed will be given to them. They are to be exempt from taxation for twenty years, and are allowed the right of legislation on local affairs, and to elect their own judges, while freedom of religious tenets and worship is guaranteed! What a commentary this presents on the long reign of Spanish exaction and tenacity. What a contempt is shown for the exclusive ideas of their ancestors, and many of their brethren in other States. True wisdom has in two instances penetrated the thick skull of the Spanish breed: and surely Bolivia and Peru, as they deserve, will attain earliest, the highest prosperity to which the States of South America are destined.

The States of Equador and New Granada are north of

* The Washington Union copied the decree of the President of Peru.

Peru. Three-fourths of one, and one half of the other, are drained by the waters of the Amazon. The great river itself, and numerous branches, flow through Equador. The Caqueta separates these States—the Rio Negro, and all the heads of the Orinoco are found in Granada. Venezuela, farther eastward, is crossed centrally by the Orinoco. Lying within the tropics,* and possessing a diversity of climates from the different degrees of elevation above the sea, their products are tropical and extra tropical. The mountain ridges supply minerals to the enterprising miner. Differing somewhat from countries already noticed, the year is divided here, more distinctly, into wet and dry seasons—this particularly of Venezuela. There, the Orinoco,† running some one thousand, five hundred miles, with many affluents, debouches through fifty mouths in about 9 deg. north latitude. Seven of these mouths are navigable. At the distance of five hundred miles from the coast, it is from one to two miles wide, and its depth at low water is some sixty-five fathoms. Its adjacent forests are extensive, having all the ordinary and several kinds of aromatic wood;—beyond, are vast fertile plains;—everywhere are to be seen animals of many species, and fowls of every variety of gorgeous plumage. The useful and the ornamental blending in any proportion, to suit the desire or the taste.

In our cursory notice—all that the space allowed would permit us to make—we come next to the Empire of Brazil, and the country more especially of Amazonia. Its greater portion lies within the control of the Portuguese government. The largest and the richest, and the most favourably located of all the States of South-America, Brazil is yet the only one which supports a monarchy, and cherishes, as far as practicable, the despotic principles and the narrow and exclusive policy of its European progenitor.

The Amazon river rises in the heart of Peru, flowing from lake Lauricocha, and by that name running along the East-

* Gen. Mosquera describes all these States. His New Granada covers all the region north of the Amazon to the Isthmus. It is a highly interesting and valuable pamphlet.

† Encyclopædia Americana, article Orinoco.

ern valley of the Andes, into Equador. Bending to the East, it traverses, in its many windings, some four thousand or more miles, and empties an immense body of water into the Atlantic, directly under the Equator. At the mouth, it is from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty miles broad, and at certain points has been sounded, without finding bottom, to the depth of one hundred and three* fathoms! The square miles drained by this monarch of rivers and its numberless tributaries, have been estimated at two millions and forty-eight thousand: the Orinoco, allied with it by the Casiquiare, and the Rio Negro, being one of its branches. The Mississippi possesses not half so extensive a basin, and it is next in size on the globe. The Southern affluents—the prominent ones—are, the Tocantins, passing from Matto Grosso, through Gizerz and Para, and traversing more degrees of latitude than the Mississippi, pours its flood into the Amazon, not far from the city of Para—the Xingu (Chingu of Maury)—the Tapajos—the extensive Madeira from Bolivia—the Purus—Tappé—Hyuruba—Hintay—Tavary—the Ucayale from Peru, and the Huallaraga—"none of them smaller than the Ohio, and some larger than the Missouri." On the north are the Negro, from New Granada, bringing along the waters of Orinoco—the Japura or Caqueta—the Putomayo or Ica—the Napo, from Equador—the Tigré—Yucu, and the Pastaza, which, like the Napo, rises in the mountains about Quito.

The climate of this long river varies from that of perpetual snows in the Andes, through all gradations, to the level of the sea, in latitude zero. The soil is pre-eminently fertile. The forest growth is unequalled. The productions correspond with the soil and the climate, and all are in perfection. Every zone of the earth has there a representative yield, and in larger proportion than elsewhere. In parts of the valley, the lower portion, summer is perpetual, and there is a constant succession of crops. Several harvests of certain productions may be gathered annually. Cocoa and Coca grow there spontaneously. There likewise are culti-

* Encyclopedia Americana.

vated, or grow wild, rice, corn, wheat, tea, coffee, sugar, cotton, tobacco, castor oil plant, tapioca and the orzad tree; and all the drugs and perfumes, and the curious and valuable trees and woods of Paraguay, already alluded to, may be found. The rich Brazil nuts grow in that region, and the more important India rubber (Caoutchouc)* so extensively employed now, and increasing rapidly in demand, comes thence almost exclusively. Gold and diamonds are washed from the streets of some of the towns of Brazil† (in Matto Grosso.) The great dividing ridge between the waters of Amazon and La Plata, ranges in a zigzag course through the empire, passing Cayuba, and on both its sides, for nearly two thousand miles, are found gold dust, diamonds, and other precious stones.

A large share of the commerce of Brazil is given to the United States—England, however, and Portugal, being on terms of more intimate intercourse. But when we become better known and appreciated—our propinquity of situation is considered, and our markets, equally good with others of the world, are tested, it may be reasonably calculated, that the monopoly of her trade will be enjoyed by this country. The nature of things, to which attention will be called directly, renders this conclusion not only probable in theory, but absolutely inevitable in practice!

The revenue of Brazil, as a recent newspaper intimates, is about thirty-four millions of dollars, of which about thirty millions of dollars were expended the past year. Her financial affairs would seem to be in good condition. But it is not the object, at present, to look beyond the political and geographical situation of any of the numerous State of South America. A volume would not comprise a minute account of all their external and internal relations. Nor is a view of these at all necessary, in the elucidation of our subject. Incidentally, allusions may be made or insinuated in the sequel.

South America is peculiarly situated, with regard to the

* The total value of India rubber goods manufactured in the United States is estimated at *ten millions annually!*

† Encyclopedia Americana—article, Brazil.

United States. Her configuration, together with the influences of the trade-winds, make her choice territory an agricultural region; and the combination of these winds with certain ocean channels, particularly the gulf stream, will ultimately throw her valuable products into the lap of the more industrious and enterprising people of North America. The revolution of the globe produces both of these effects, aided by the varied* temperature of different zones.

The gulf stream passes through the Bahama channel,—skirts the coast of the United States,—meeting the Polar current off Halifax, it is diverted near the banks of Newfoundland, and expanding in all its progress, it moves by the Cape de Verds, and dividing, one portion goes towards Norway, while another trends upon the Canaries, and down the coast of Africa. Here, it unites with the equatorial current, and flows westward towards South America, where it impinges in about the latitude of Cape St. Roque, where the shores of that country form a salient angle towards the East. Separating again,—while a part sweeps down the coast and through the Straits of Magellan, the stronger stream rushes by the mouths of the Amazon and the Orinoco, enters the Caribean sea, and thence circling the Gulf of Mexico, proceeds again on its perpetual† biennial round. The waters of the Amazon are thus directed into the Carribean sea, into the Gulf of Mexico, and through the Bahama Straits. As Maury beautifully says, a chip thrown from the Andes into that vast tide, would be found, in time, in the Gulf stream off Charleston; and it would meet a similar float, cast from the Rocky Mountains in the waters of the Mississippi. The Gulf is rendered common, by natural laws, to the uses of both half continents; and commercial predominance must control the products of them both! The Amazon is destined to bear the commerce of nine-tenths of productive South America—its stream, borne by an Ocean channel, runs within a hundred miles of our great Southern Atlantic seaport—and with a spark of intelligent enterprise, the rich freight must find a

* For minute knowledge reference may be had to the Encyclopedias, Murray's Geography, Brande's Dictionary, etc. We have no space to descend into particulars.

† Encyclopedia Americana.

lodgement at her wharves. This process is true, and it is as beautiful as true.

While the Gulf stream has this tendency, the trade-winds of the Atlantic are lending an important co-operation. That, in the northern hemisphere, perceptible in latitude thirty degrees, blows from the North-east toward the Equator. The Southern, striking in about the same latitude, moves North-westerly to the same equatorial line. The wind and the channel, both advancing up the coast of South America, about St. Roque, present a serious obstacle to sailing ships from Para, at the mouth of the Amazon, to Rio Janeiro. Practice demonstrates the fact. A vessel bound from Para for any part of the world, save the Caribean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico, not excepting Rio or Cape Horn, is compelled* *to run North to the latitude of Florida*, before taking her course. By the united action of wind and stream, Charleston and other ports on our seaboard, are placed, therefore, much nearer, as to time, to Para, than is Rio Janeiro, the capital of Brazil! And by the breadth of the Atlantic, nearer than Liverpool or London. Going hence to Para, a ship is wafted by the North-east trade-wind. Even should steam be applied, the advantages are similar. The trip between Charleston and Para would consume ten or twelve days, perhaps less; while to England it would be nearly twice as long. The time to Rio, from Para, is of little concern, since the produce will seek the nearest and best markets, and the United States, or England, must become the great mart for its exchange.

Providence appears to direct—by the natural laws alluded to—into the waters of the United States, the future valuable and varied productions of an Empire. Energetic man must appropriate the blessing. Enjoying such advantages, our country must, in the course of time, surpass the material glories, at least, of Greece; and may even transcend the collossal magnitude and wealth of Rome in her palmiest days. And combining the sources of greatness from other channels of commerce, and from the certain, however gra-

* Maury states the fact.

dual, enlargement of our territory, and the vast increase of population, &c., &c., British supremacy on the ocean will live only in history, while a mightier Power will firmly grasp both the trident of the sea, and the sceptre on land!

The trade-winds perform another, and a far higher office. Aided by the figure and the location of Amazonia, including the countries of La Plata and the Orinoco, they render it the grand agricultural region, such as it has been described. This figure approaches to a right angle triangle, having the Andes, in direction North and South, for the hypothenuse, and the sides, running North-east and South-east, uniting in the angle at Cape St. Roque. The trade-winds (respectively) impinge perpendicularly against those sides, and *sweep over a vast country* to the mountains; starting dry winds, from the Poles, and passing wide tracts of the ocean;—the South-east trades favouring South America more than any other country, because they traverse the greatest expanse of water,—they imbibe moisture in their progress, and arrive in Amazonia, plethoric with aqueous vapour. Meeting near the Equator, what is called the belt, or zone of calm, is there formed. This zone is several degrees of latitude in breadth; and by reason of the non-coincidence of the Ecliptic and the Equator, or, in other words, because the sun moves back and forth (apparently) across the "line," it varies in position, travelling from about 5 deg. South, to 10 or 15 degs. North latitude. Wherever it may be, it is incessantly raining. In the month of March, it moves northward, precipitating abundant and refreshing showers, and is followed by the South-east trade, carrying fair weather in its train. In August or September it retraces its course, moistening the earth with a genial "season," and, pressed by the North-east trade, dispensing balmy air and cloudless skies. The floods are mostly poured upon the slopes and summits of the Andes and adjacent ridges, where the colder atmosphere extracts, as from a compressed sponge, every particle of watery vapour. In the progress of these laden winds, the whole country, comprised in our subject, is bounteously supplied with dews and rains, and by them and the belt of calm, the sources of the

great streams, the Magdalena, the Orinoco, La Plata, and their various tributaries, are nourished and sustained in their magnificent tides; while the more central (equatorially) Amazon is rendered always navigable, to the very foot of the Andes! Lt. Maury says, that the zone of calm is laid down in his trade-wind chart, and its position may be seen for any month in the year. The wet and dry seasons are produced by its change of place. But the Orinoco basin alone is peculiarly divided into these distinct periods of rain and drought. Elsewhere, and particularly on the Amazon, the wet season gives more rain, but, at other times of the year, as in the temperate region of North America, there are cooling and fructifying showers. This adds to its agricultural capability, and likewise to the agreeableness of that equatorial region,—especially where not elevated much above the sea,—for the habitation and the labours of man.

The government of the States is in all republican, excepting Brazil, which is monarchical, having an Emperor for its sovereign. Knowledge of the numbers of the inhabitants is not definite, but ten millions would probably be a fair estimate, including Spaniards and Portuguese-Indians, independent and subservient, and half and quarter breeds, and negroes, and the various crosses upon that stock; of whom, one-third, perhaps, are unmixed descendants of European races. Brazil is the only slave State. The others, in their enthusiasm, like the French in their era of madness, proclaimed emancipation about the time that their own *political* fetters were stricken off. Between the mouths of the Orinoco and Amazon, the British, the Dutch, and the French, have the small colonies of Guiana, but they do not conflict with the tenor of the argument. They can neither check nor divert, by such possessions, the great stream of commerce,—and it is their destiny, at that point, to fall into the flow of the current, or be submerged in its waves.

In a condensed form—omitting much that would instruct, and, perhaps, interest—the best portion of South America has been noticed, in its climate, soil, rivers, productions; in the numbers and character of its population; and in the na-

ture, very generally, of its forms of government. A few comments and suggestions are not only proper, but necessary, to complete the outline for the present time.

Many of the people of South America, in possession of the *diamond* "Indies"—far superior, if justly developed, to those "golden" ones which mankind for so many centuries have worshipped—are awakening from a repose of ages of longer duration than the famous nap of Rip Van Winkle, and seem inclined to imbibe a portion of the enlightenment of more advanced, if of less favoured nations. Their first and highest duty, alike enuring to their own interest, and to that of the world, is to form treaties of friendship and commerce with other countries. Such treaties should be based on terms of the utmost reciprocal liberality with each and all. Monopolies among nations are equally disadvantageous and odious with those between individuals. They are not only rapacious in design, and in the long run really unprofitable in result, but they are demoralizing. Let all countries fare alike; let there be free and honourable competition; and industry and skill will be stimulated and rewarded, while the emulation excited will redound to the benefit of all parties. South America derives her prospects of wealth, and her consequent refinement and general advancement, from the products of her minerals—from her agriculture (cultivation)—from the spontaneous growth of her forests, and the increase of various animals on her vast pampas, and numerous other pastoral regions. By fair rivalry in her markets she may sell at the best rates, and purchase on equally fair terms. She is not commercial. The formation of her coast forbids it. She is a producing, not a carrying people.

Nature fashions the character, as well as directs the pursuits, of man. The mountaineer inhales from his pure and elevated breezes, the proud principles of individual freedom, while following the hardy exercise of the chase, and deriving a scanty subsistence from a rock-strown soil. The inhabitant of indented coasts—with peninsulas and bays—and such are confined exclusively to the Northern hemisphere—

is a commercial being born to the sea. His enterprise and daring belong to another element. His infantine sports are with the breakers of old ocean; his mature manhood not only exists, but delights, in wrestling with the mountain waves, and traversing, for gain, the great blue main in all directions. The planter belongs to another and a distinct class. His aim is to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before—to upturn the soil, and compel the earth to the largest yield of her most needed, and, therefore, most profitable fruits. He looks neither to the mountains nor to the sea, but works diligently upon the fertile fields around—independent from his very avocation, which teaches dependence solely upon God, and not man, for spring time and harvest; and, as his pursuit, the foundation of all, is the noblest, so he is the genuine nobleman of the world!

South America necessarily depends on others to waft her produce from her doors. Commercial freedom should be her earliest maxim;—and all the avenues should be opened widely to facilitate its universal enjoyment. A revenue policy may, in the end, conflict with this maxim—but an infant people have relied, and will again do so, for governmental support, on direct taxation. The complication of customs, regulations, and treaty stipulations, more or less exclusive, belong to maturer nations, and those whose varied climes, and, therefore, varied pursuits and industrial productions, require some modification of the great principle of free trade; and, paradoxical as it appears, experience shows also, that they demand some disguise of taxation, although equally felt, yet not consciously appreciated, from the indirect and circuitous channel through which it is collected. But a purely agricultural people (including now all that the earth gives forth, upon and beneath its surface) need never deviate from the broad views of free international commercial intercourse. The most civilized and experienced countries, long mired in the slough of commercial restrictions, have at length perceived the great reciprocal blessings of an approximation, at least, to free trade principles, however diversified the avocations of their citizens. South America may wisely adopt

them at the outset. She would advance beyond even the growing intelligence of England and the United States, and *in one respect may boast a superior progress in civilization!*

Bolivia and Peru have set the ball in motion, and have thus given a noble example to their sister States. Paraguay has probably followed in their wake, although the terms of the recent triple treaty with England, France and America, (one portion of it by Mr. Pendleton,) are not published. Equador, New Grenada and Venezuela will unquestionably concur with the others. And Urquiza, since his expulsion of Rosas, a follower of old Dr. Francia, of Paraguay, and disposed to seal hermetically La Plata,—Urquiza has decreed the opening of that river to the commerce of all the world. It is a wise order, conforming to the intelligence of the age; and fully as much so to the necessities of the Buenos Ayrean provinces. But we hope not to be traced to mere opposition, temporarily, to the stupid course of Rosas, and, therefore, when its author is securely established in power, liable to be repealed! Brazil, alone, at present the most important country, adheres to an obstinate hatred of North American "*pirates*," and to her own absurdly contracted notions of national prosperity. Don Pedro refused permission to our Government to look into the Amazon, and merely ascertain its value. (Maury.) He is satisfied with his own mere knowledge of his gold, and diamond, and agricultural mines. Like the man who boasts to the world of a splendid (unimproved) estate—lying waste, and giving comparatively no return to the owner—Don Pedro will laud his possessions too; but neither improve them himself—for he is really incompetent—nor permit another to do so; although immensely to his pecuniary advantage, to his political enhancement, and to his credit for sound sense and liberal ideas. He fears our ambitious desire to *annex* his Empire! But he not! At present, our hands are full. Our territory is beyond the wants of our population, rapidly increasing as it is. Mexico has to be absorbed, provided for, and controlled into decency and respectability. Cuba has to be acquired; not by purchase perhaps, nor by the more questionable policy of rampant—and honestly we say it—unjustifiable "*filibus-*

terism," but by the indignant uprising of her own people, their extrication from tyranny by their own strong arms, and *then*, our maintenance of their independence, and annexation of their State, *at their own request*. Texas is in some respects a case in point. Possibly, most of the West India Islands, after some fashion, will merge into our capacious bosom. Next, Central America must be disposed of, if not to our benefit, certainly in a manner least calculated to do us injury.

After all these events, Brazil may awaken the attention of the American people, but scarcely sooner. Don Pedro—the Emperor—will certainly live and die an Emperor, so far as the United States can affect his destiny. But, in frankness, which should characterize all our foreign intercourse, we should say to Don Pedro, had we his ear, that the womb of the future is closed, Providentially, by an impenetrable veil. Its forthcoming events cannot be announced by human tongue, since the days of the prophets are passed away, and mankind have no assurance that the Divinity will again inspire one of his creatures to a similar degree with those of old. Yet, reasoning from the increasing power and grandeur of America—from the expansibility of her principles and institutions, (not that of her constitution, as our friend, Gov. Cass asserts)—and from the long tested propensities of her dominant race for the acquisition of *land*, and for the *order* and *good government* of the world, it may be said, (barring fratricidal conflicts and disunion,) that Brazil, empire as it is under a monarchical sovereign, must inevitably partake of the glorious destiny of the United States! If, to finite human vision, anything remote in the career of nations may be perceived, this—whatever time may elapse—is as clear as the sun at unclouded noonday! But the vision is not restricted to Don Pedro's dominions. All of South America will share in the renown and the glory of such a destiny! Don Pedro's country, perhaps, the *very last;* if that will content him, and quiet his apprehensions! Thirty years ago, (See Everett's lecture at New York) San Salvador applied to unite with us—and it is said that Venezuela has expressed, or is about to express, the same desire.

At this juncture, only free commerce with Brazil is requested. The demand must be acceded to. England, France, and America, can succeed. The instructions of our Executive, and the earnest co-operation of the other powers, will break down the old Chinese policy of Brazil. An effort is required, and the sooner it is made the better for all parties. Besides, there are five powers soliciting earnestly to be blessed by the navigation of the Amazon and its main tributaries. They must be heard. Brazil has fought in the same cause, and by proper and peremptory representations, from the Powers mentioned, she may not refuse justice, and prove herself a nation inconsistent and selfish. Should she persist in her obstinacy, the States above her, aided by the three great civilized and commercial nations, will declare war,—force her to just ideas of comity, and conclude a treaty on fair and satisfactory terms. This is to be the last resort, but it will be adopted, if those countries shall ever sincerely co-operate with those of South America.

In the meantime, lines of ships, steam or sail, may* be recommended to our merchants. Southern men may invest in this enterprise, because it will pay now; and soon, a good interest will accrue; while an established footing will secure large profits in the future. The commerce of Para is worth about three millions of dollars, that of La Plata nearly as much more, per annum. The travel and the mails, in addition, would support a monthly vessel; while the trade of Rio Janeiro, and other ports, would swell the compensation.

* By the newspapers we see that the Water-Witch steamer, under Lt. Page, has been sent by our Executive to explore La Plata and its waters. This, since the decree of General Urquiza. Likewise, the steamer El Paraguay has been despatched to carry on trade on La Plata and Paraguny rivers. Her commander is Lt. Baldwin of the Navy. The expedition was fitted out at New York, by merchants there probably, and under the suggestions and auspices of Edward A. Hopkins, Esq., United States Consul to the Republic of Paraguay. These lines would be the forerunners of others, established to run between different points on the two great rivers. Maury says (quoting Martin) that, for eight months after La Plata was opened to European commerce, sixteen millions of dollars worth of goods were exchanged for produce. Two convoys of ships, one of one hundred and ten, and the other of seventy-six vessels passed down the river La Plata with full cargoes. This, without previous mercantile establishment.

Charleston is most favourably situated to commence the operation, and she has ample capital for the purpose, yet Congress should give aid. There is as much propriety in adopting this scheme, as in endowing steamer lines to California and Europe. Two steamers would answer to begin the trade with Para. Another line should be formed for La Plata, not to pause at Buenos Ayres, but to proceed as high as Paraguay, if not beyond. This, for the present, would be more lucrative than the other, and unquestionably would make handsome returns. Rail-roads are often constructed on estimates of prospective payment, and how many linger for long years without a dividend, and occasionally demand an extra subscription from the stockholders for support? The South-Carolina road, for one, has done so. It would not be so bad, certainly, in an investment in steamers for South America; while the enterprise would be full as creditable, and the ultimate advantage—particularly if the contemplated treaty should be early negociated—perhaps much greater.

It may be said that intercourse with South America would benefit the South less than the North. In some respects, there would be ground for the assertion. We, like the people there, are eminently agricultural. But we are more. The factories* of the world cannot compete in quality and cheapness with our coarse cotton goods, and these, for a long time, would be chiefly in demand. By the period that their riches would increase, and with them a taste for luxuries, who can declare that the South will be unable to meet the requisition for finer fabrics? The probabilities are the other way. Our factories, other than cotton, would use the raw material in part, at least, from that region; and still others,

* The United States will, in the course of events, monopolize the trade of South America. Our manufactures must supersede those of England. France has none to compete with at all, and small themselves, they will have their present sway. But the immigration from the British Isles is so extensive, that labourers will not be in abundance to conduct her factory operations at present wages. We already see the first effect; *wages have increased.* This is the beginning only. They will soon be forced to the American standard, and our advantages of the material at our doors—exemption from freights and commissions—similarity of prices, and water power, will enable us to leave her far behind in the competition in cotton goods.

of which none may now exist, would soon be erected, in order to supply our own section with articles now drawn from the North. India rubber, for one article, could be moulded into all useful forms here, as well as elsewhere—quinine likewise, and all the other drugs, would be appropriated in proportion to our population. Coffee, from Rio, is now brought to us by way of N. York; it would then come directly. The same of Paraguay tea. In a measure, the same of the the varieties of wool; and, indeed, of every thing but cotton, rice and sugar, which are our great staples. Tobacco, of choice kinds, would be as welcome from South America as from Cuba;—be bought at cheaper rates;—and segars can now be made in our cities, as well as any where else. Besides, what might not be wanted among us could be shipped to other markets. New-York may be tributary to Charleston for some things, with as much justice as she has been so to New-York for fifty years. Let the tables be turned. Let these lines, to one or both ports and rivers of South America, be the commencement of a revolution in trade. A beginning will tend to consummate the revolution in all trade, and to all other countries. This has been a great *desideratum* with southern merchants and statesmen for over twenty years. Several Conventions, and the recent one at Memphis among them, have discussed the proposition, but they all terminated in windy resolutions. No man, nor set of men, would lay down *his* or their money, and say here is the *nucleus* for a general subscription. There was no enthusiastic earnestness of purpose—there was no kindling leader of moral, intellectual, and *especially of pecuniary* weight and determination, to mould the southern policy. The South is apparently as remote from her object as she was before the pouring of all this frothy declamation. Here, now, is something practical and real, and men of substance should come to the mark—put their purses IN the wheel—and show the world that *words are not all*—that we mean to, and can, accomplish a great work.

A further incentive to the course advised, is the fact that competition is being aroused, and the first who shall gain the trade of Amazonia, unless under very great disadvantages,

will retain it for a long period. England has a line now to Rio Janeiro, and will form another to Para. New-York, more favoured, may step in also, and checkmate both England and South. Her attention is already awakened. The time for action has arrived. While the city of Charleston, and the interior counties of different States, are building the Rabun gap, and the Blue Ridge rail-roads, for—we may say—a continental channel of trade, to struggle successfully against Norfolk and Savannah,—let individual merchants, and other citizens, combine to bring an equal or greater trade, by sea, from another country. The one is not inconsistent with the other. Both united, in proper hands, and impelled by ordinary Anglo-Saxon energy and acuteness, would, probably, make the metropolis of South-Carolina, in *reality* the "queen city of the South!"

The second great duty of South America is to *invite* emigration.* Excepting Brazil, all the States attempted once to follow in the governmental footsteps of America. Whether failure in essentials, or success, was the result, is not the question. If the former, it was not owing to the model; for *we have* succeeded. Let those States take another sample of our wisdom, and invite foreigners, with liberal donations of their unoccupied territory, to settle among them, and impart habits of industry, and examples of energy and skill, to their indolent, and, comparatively, benighted people. This policy has materially assisted in propelling us† to the position in the world which we now occupy. A similar one is at present needed in South America—sparsely populated, with an immense country;—capable, from its soil and its mineral treasures, of offering the highest inducements to emigrants. The Irish, the English, the Germans, and others from Europe, would flock there in crowds, and settle in the climes congenial to their previous habits, to their tastes, or to their constitutions (physiologically.) When the Isthmus canal and rail-road are completed, of which one is in pro-

* Peru has done so as previously stated.

† This remark is a national one. The southern section of America has been very slightly, if at all benefitted. But the northern people have, to an extraordinary degree. The text, farther on, will exhibit more of the question.

gress, and the other, unquestionably, to be constructed ere long, thousands would pass from overpopulated Asia, to those regions of South America, which are assimilated in climate and productions to their native countries. The Chinese, shaking off forty centuries of slumber, would hasten there, to improve their condition, as large numbers have already successfully done, in California. The Coolies and various others, would follow the example. South America, in portions of her territory, would blossom like a garden, and pour into the laps of foreign nations—while receiving in return an ample equivalent—her countless and inexhaustible riches. She would advance full soon, and with giant strides, to a high place in agriculture, in the refinement flowing from wealth, in respectability and power, among the most favoured countries. Brazil should not lag in the rear. Her interests would be subserved in as high a degree as those of others, by the adoption of the same sagacious policy. Don Pedro may fear the stability of his dynasty, by admitting a heterogeneous population of strangers from all parts of the globe. But the fear would be idle for a long time to come. His Portuguese have possession and control, and are numerous. They may jealously exclude all, but natives, from political stations. They would leaven the emigrants by intermarriages with themselves. Revolutions under such circumstances are but slow in maturing, and might be avoided in their horrors of carnage, by gradual alterations of laws and institutions, to meet the advancing intelligence of the people. A wise prince will ascertain the essential requirements of the governed, and, from time to time, make the necessary concessions In the course of ages, should ameliorations of government become inevitable, the Portuguese would, with the promoters and abettors of them, be equally elevated and benefitted.

Many, from the United States, would, undoubtedly, seek that country. Some for its mineral advantages—others for the prosecution of their arts and trades—numbers for agricultural purposes, and all for the ease and unsurpassed facility, with which, not only subsistence, but a competency, may be procured. The institution of slavery in Brazil, which

should awaken in that power some sympathy with us, where the same system prevails, and on a scale greatly more extended, would entice our southern planters, with their slaves, in large numbers, in the course of time, to emigrate to the fertile valley of the Amazon. The fruitful soil and climate, where nature yields an hundred fold, or more, to moderate labour, would be an irresistible attraction. Although, from the hot sun, which dries rapidly the decaying foliage; and the continual succession of growths, which absorbs promptly the elements of that decay, the lower portion of Amazonia may be more healthful than most countries under the equator; yet, the opinion may be offered, that the *white man* cannot properly develop that region, by his unaided manual exertions. The rays of a vertical sun are too intense to be borne by him. They have been proved to be overpowering above even 30 deg. of north latitude, in the United States; and, in South America, with all modifying circumstances, the lassitude induced, prevents, for some hours of the day, a white person from venturing without the shade.* African slaves are, therefore, demanded in order to extract the agricultural wealth of a region, where no others of the human family can toil under a burning sun. Brazil thus maintains the system of slavery, and many thousands are annually imported. The trade will increase and multiply, in spite of the impotent edicts of man. It is a decree of Providence, to accomplish his inscrutable designs. One of these designs may be *conjectured* to be to "till the earth," and in doing so, certainly not to abandon to wilderness, to the beasts of prey, to the fowls of air, and to creeping monsters, her fairest and most fertile portions. The order having been given, the means were adapted, and inspiration, or instinct, prompted the dominant, and the intellectually, and, in complexion, the superior race, to apply the only possible method, as yet known, that of compelling the inferior and suitable African to the

* Warren, in his Para, &c., gives an interesting account of that city (fifteen thousand inhabitants) and province. Para is elevated, and the heat not so oppressive, as it is higher up the Amazon. The thermometer was, in the shade, at the highest, at 90 deg.; and, at the lowest, at 70 deg. A difference during the year of only 20 deg.!

great task. A second design, judging from the effect produced on the American slaves, may be the conversion from ignorance, immorality, utter uselessness in the economy of the world, and from idolatry, millions of human creatures. The heathen are to be reclaimed, and this mode is the most admirable that can be conceived. All others have accomplished nothing, compared with the pecuniary means, and the human lives, expended in the effort. Not fifty thousand barbarians have received and adopted the truth, in the last two or three centuries; while in the United States there are three hundred thousand, or more, who are communicants of the church; and as many millions are removed from the savage state—are comfortable, happy, civilized, and to a degree intelligent; adding, by moderate daily toil, to their own physical and moral contentment, and, at the same time, benefitting all mankind by the productions of their industry! This topic need not be pursued. These hints are all that we care to present to the reader in this paper.

We must not, however, omit to notice Lieut. Maury's position, that "the free navigation of the Amazon"—"is to prove (in his belief,) the safety valve of the Union." The allusion to the future extinction of slavery is obvious. The period at which this desirable (?) event is to occur, has not been conjectured. From the recent action of our government, and the rabid agitation of emancipation in another section of the country, indicating a settled hostility to the institution, and a growing power to abolish it, the presumption is that its doom was fixed for an early day; and both the security of the Union and the riddance of slaves, were to be accomplished by an instant commercial treaty for the navigation and settlement of the Amazon valley, by the emigration thence of all our slave owners, with their "peculiar" property! Cotton, and sugar, and rice, are to be thrown overboard for a decade! The Southern States are to become that peaceful solitude which Tacitus describes! The factories of the world are to be suspended, until Amazonia furnishes the materials for farther action, and the ope-

* Maury's pamphlet, last page.

ratives to live—perhaps, on air!—for the term of suspension! Or, Lieut. Maury, enthusiastic in his commercial cause, and earnestly wishing the aid of Congress, would conciliate the sentiment of the† majority to attain his end! Either reason is unfortunate. But we will boldly meet the point at issue, and its consequences, on other, and, quite as strong grounds, as those which he has indicated.

We believe, differently, perhaps, from Lieut. Maury and many others, that the anti-slavery feeling is running to seed. That the hobby, ridden without reaching the grand aim projected, is wearing out. That the northern agitators are now confined to a comparatively few madmen, who are equally fanatic against the Bible and its author, as against "slave drivers." That the bone and sinew of our northern brethren are satisfied that an *ignis fatuus* has been leading them astray from a just and constitutional view of the question, and into the quagmire of insociability and unkindness with their best neighbours. That England, the originator of the system of slavery, and, from selfish and sinister* motives, the very head of the crusade for its extirpation, is sick of the heartless struggle; and would *now*, but for very shame, re-establish it in her fertile dominions; and *will do so yet*, when her cycle of experiments—the end of which the sagacious

* We heartily disavow all intended offence to Mr. Maury. He is a Virginian, and, without knowing him personally, is a gentleman for whom we entertain high admiration. We are dealing with his publication, and we assure him that we are handling this portion with *our gloves on*.

† A letter in the New-York Herald of the 24th June, 1853, from a Dr. Geo. Burton Haygarth, at Chuquisaca, Bolivia, (dated 12th Feb., 1853,) explains the grand philanthropy of the last India Emancipation Act, and the twenty millions of pounds sterling appropriated for the purpose. He quotes from the British Secretary of the Board of Trade, that the difference between the price of free and slave labour sugar pays England about five million sterling annually. This was the original estimate when the scheme was concocted, and it has been realized. The details of the letter are interesting. We regret that it cannot be inserted here in full. The evil motive was to effect a dissolution of the Union, and check the progress of a great commercial rival. The action of the Shaftesbury's, and Sunderlands, and Carlisles, is probably in the old time of policy. But the government differs. The Queen would not receive the Stows, and it was difficult for Martin Van Buren to gain admission to her from his past unpatriotic anti-slavery career. Had he not been an Ex-President of the United States, he would have been in the same degraded category with the authors of Uncle Tom's Cabin!

already perceive—is terminated. The grand politico-*religious* fervour is nearly evaporated, and *slavery, this day, stands on a firmer basis than it has ever done!*

The cordon around the South, restricting slavery to the present States which sustain it, and leading to the idea that its great increase of numbers may, as Henry Clay thought, very absurdly, compel the owners to get clear of their negroes *because unprofitable*, possibly suggested the notion expressed by Lieut. Maury. But it was not well considered. When the necessity arises, the South will *break* the cordon established by the governments; she will incorporate one after another, the Mexican States; she will take active measures—from which she has heretofore abstained—to introduce slavery into California, and even Oregon; and it *exists already* in Utah; and in the worst form in New Mexico. Yet the time for these necessities is quite remote. Indeed they will, in reasonable probability, *never* press upon us at all.

For her purposes, the South requires an accession to her number of negroes of about one hundred thousand per annum! Bounteously as her soil has produced, for the *security* and the *interest* of England, and for the industry of the Northern States, it is just begun to be developed. Like South America, many parts have been merely scratched for present needs. Her coal, and iron, and copper, and silver and gold, have to be delved. Her great rail-road schemes have to be perfected, and negroes are preferable to whites for these objects—work more, cost less, bear the climate better, and *never strike* for wages. Her swamps—the best of her lands—are to be drained and cultivated. Her vast extent of territory has to be filled up and improved. Her lands skimmed over and abandoned, have to be renovated. Her factories of all kinds have to be supplied with operatives; and, when the poor or lazy whites are exhausted, the negroes will supply the deficiency; and experience of the past, and the present practice, prove their competency. There is a world of work to do in the next three or four centuries, and labour is *wanting*.

Should Cuba be annexed, and the importation of Africans be proscribed and prohibited, our wants would enormously

increase. Prices of slaves, ruling at present, show the value of our contemplated works, and the absence of labourers in sufficient abundance. Cuba would render the case far worse. Some twenty or thirty thousand negroes are imported annually, and do not supply the demand.* Under our rule—with emigrants to that rich island—what would become of both countries? The great staples would not be yielded sufficiently to satisfy the world. Mankind would suffer.

From this view of the subject, the "safety valve" need not be opened for perhaps a thousand years! And then all the continent south of Kentucky and Missouri, at least, will be more or less inundated with Africans, accomplishing their proper destiny—*driven* by *their masters*—and promoting the general progress of civilization! In the meantime, instead of looking to outlets for her slaves, wanting labour like Cuba, which would give to us only political strength—and its annexation is objectionable on other grounds—may not the South be forced to demand of the Federal Government *a reopening of the slave trade* under humane regulations? This is a startling proposition. We put it suppositiously. But it does not shock our sensibilities in the least. Slavery is sanctioned by revelation. It is almost ordered. It is neither immoral, nor sinful, nor wrong, and is, therefore, *right*. Its ultimate reaction upon Africa, in the dim future, may make that the empire of the globe, like all that have preceded us. In view of the decay of the Asiatic and European kingdoms and empires, of the inevitable coming desolation of England, and even the decline of the American continent, all may yet be under the wheel, and Africa in the ascendant! But in our present contemplations, the requirements of the Southern States may exact a repeal of the clause of the constitution, which prohibits the importation of Africans after the year 1808.

Among the innumerable forcible reasons—in this limitless

† A correspondent of the New-York Express makes this statement, and we think it not overrated. He says "there is a constant demand for labour. The Chinese importation of one thousand two hundred, to be increased to six thousand, is but as a *drop in the ocean*."

question—for the suggestion last advanced, space will permit but one or two of the stronger arguments in its support. With these views we shall close the whole subject.

The North abolished slavery for physical reasons. Their climate, and soil, and pursuits, did not need slaves. They have prospered, as to wealth and numbers, beyond the south. This arose, in part, from the tide of emigration which set towards their shores. Their climate was adapted to the Europeans, and there they remained; and, in swelling the northern population, have aided in all their avocations.

The South held slaves, because they alone could endure the climate, and cultivate the soil, under—comparatively—the tropics. They have thrown upon the world four great and valuable staples—rice, tobacco, sugar and cotton—which, without negroes, would never have reached the grand beneficial and civilizing point which they have attained. The North has had, and continues to receive, a full supply of the working class from abroad. The South receives none whatever. The Constitution forbids her. Europeans cannot, here, perform our work, and, unlike the North, we are deficient in labourers. What recourse have we? Only to import those who are by nature fitted to perform our tasks. And is this not fair and just? If the Irish and the Germans satisfy the North, and are permitted to come to their aid—and *cannot* serve us—are we not equally entitled to draw to our fields those who can till them, while promoting the interest of the North and the good of the world? The South will ponder this proposition. The day may not be distant when the suggestion will be approved and resolutely acted upon. We do not urge nor argue it now, since our paper already is too long. But we appeal to the *thinking* men of our section, and advise them to buckle on their armor, and sharpen their weapons of argumentative war. There are many ways of *carrying the war into Africa!* H.